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Happy Birthday

file photo

Maj. Gen. John DeFreitas, III, commanding general, cuts the cake with the help of the unit's oldest, Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Rose (left), and youngest, Spc. Angellena Gibson (right), Soldiers during the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command's celebration of the Army's 231st birthday at the Nolan Bldg., Fort Belvoir, Va., June 14.

Preventing identity theft

In May, the Veterans Administration learned that an employee took home electronic data without authorization. The employee's home was burglarized and the data, including personal information for up to 26 million people, was stolen. The Defense Department's interest now focuses on informing those in uniform and their families how best to defeat identity theft. Several resources are available. The Department of Veterans Affairs has set up a special web site ([http:// www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov)) and a toll-free telephone number (1-800-333-4636) to help. Information relating to the defeat of identify theft also is available at <http://www.militaryonesource.com>.



photo by Mary Diaz

1st Sgt. Mark Borzain accepts the Volunteer of the Year unit award for the 406th MI Company, 500th MI Group.

INSCOM honors best

The U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command held the 29th annual Command Awards Ceremony spotlighting the best military and civilian workers throughout the command during INSCOM Day at Fort Belvoir, Va., June 21.

The Albert Small Award went to Ronald L. Sidwell, Jr., of the 66th MI Group. The Col. Richard F. Judge Award was presented to Johnnie D. Ellington and Sgt. Maj. John A. Latham, both of Headquarters INSCOM. The Jackie Keith Action Officer of the Year Award went to Stephen R. Knapp, also of Headquarters INSCOM.

William Nebres of the 902nd MI Group earned the Virginia McDill Award, and

Kwang Chong Pae of the 501st MI Brigade is the Local National Employee of the Year. Staff Sgt. Eric T. Anderson received the Equal Opportunity Award.

Conrad C. Blankenship, Jr. of Headquarters INSCOM took home the Annual Wage Grade Award and Carolyn M. Kasprzak of the 500th MI Group earned the individual Volunteer of the Year, while the 406th MI Company, 500th MI Group earned the Volunteer of the Year unit award.

Sharon C. Yarbrough of the 704th MI Brigade earned the Quality Customer Service Award and George Beech took home the Commander's Plaque from Operational Achievement.

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*file photo*

Aiming for a drug-free workplace

by Sgt. Tricia O. Ortiz
INSCOM Public Affairs

By executive order and regulation, the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command must have a drug free workplace. In order to accomplish this, INSCOM has made sure the Civilian Drug Testing Program is implemented and runs properly.

Marilyn Howard, a human resources assistant with Headquarters INSCOM's Human Resources Division, is tasked with coordinating the drug training for INSCOM civilian employees, to include all INSCOM major subordinate commands. She also manages the command's civilian random and pre-employment drug

testing programs and ensures compliance with the U.S. Army Substance Abuse Program in accordance with Army Regulation 600-85.

All units within the Army that have testing designated positions enforce this program. INSCOM prides itself in providing a safe, healthy, productive, secure, and drug-free workplace, she said.

"We are required by regulation to have a civilian drug testing program and we need someone to administer the program for the entire command," said Karen E. Wolfe, chief of Civilian Human Resource Division.

Howard ensures the means of random selection remains

confidential. Also, she evaluates whether the number of employees tested and the frequency with which tests are administered satisfy INSCOM's duty to achieve a drug free workplace, said Wolfe.

"In accordance with the Army regulation, all civilian employees required to maintain a Top Secret clearance or have access to Sensitive Compartmented Information are subject to random drug testing," said Howard. "Drug testing deters people from using illegal drugs. It can catch people who are breaking the law. And it can help detect those who use illegal drugs and ensure they are treated and/or appropriately

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disciplined.”

If employees are under the influence of drugs in this environment, the potential to release classified information increases dramatically.

In addition, initial employment to INSCOM positions requiring a top-secret clearance or access to SCI also requires satisfactory completion of a urinalysis test to screen for illegal drug use.

“INSCOM is committed to maintaining a workplace which is free from the use of illegal drugs,” said Howard. “If an employee is found to be using illegal drugs based on

the results of a random test, he or she will be appropriately disciplined unless there is a legitimate medical reason for the drug to be in the employee’s system.”

So how exactly is the random test done?

INSCOM has a contract with the Department of Interior, which uses computerized software to randomly select the number of test designated positions to be tested each month. The computer provides a list of randomly generated numbers to Howard, who in turn, matches those numbers with a command-wide roster of eligible employees. There is



no human factor in the random selection process, meaning the coordinator is not able to independently select names for the drug test.

Once the selection process is completed, Howard contacts each individual unit, and notifies the point of contact of the employees who were randomly selected. Those selected individuals then have two hours to arrive at the designated testing point to provide a specimen for the biochemical test.

INSCOM implemented the mandatory program in September 2000, but it takes the effort of the Civilian Employee Drug Testing Program administration to manage the program effectively, Wolfe said.

“Ms. Howard does an excellent job with lot of initiative and organization,” she said. “She is eager to keep the program on track. There has been a great improvement in the administration of the program since she took over.”

For more information, contact Howard at: marilyn.howard@mi.army.mil or at 703-428-4641.



file photo

Marilyn Howard, a human resources assistant with Headquarters INSCOM, is tasked with coordinating the drug training for the command's civilian employees, to include all major subordinates.

From bars to stars

by Tina Miles
902nd MI Group

To some, the term “bars to stars” sounds like some sort of elite officer’s program, and in a way it could be.

At least, when it refers to the bars pinned onto Capt. Julia Bryan, commander, Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 902nd Military Intelligence Group. The captain’s “bars” used in her ceremony once belonged to “stars,” as in the rank of general, and contain quite a legacy.

Lt. Col. Claire E. Steele, legislative liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army, addressed the attendees prior to pinning the bars onto Bryan.

“I know every sergeant major out there is going to cringe when they see these bars because they are silver,” Steele said in reference to the silver captain’s bars pinned on Bryan’s Battle Dress Uniform. “However, I think I’ll be forgiven.”

And then Steele shared the history of the bars.

“Lt. Col. Charlie ‘Bob’ Myer wore them in the 50’s. In 1964, he used them to promote Capt. Jerry Schumacher. Lt. Col. Myer went on to become Lt. Gen. Myer, and at one point was the chief of signal,” she said.

Myer also became the commanding general at the U.S. Army School/Training Center and Fort Gordon, Ga., during his career.



photo by Tina Miles

Lt. Col. Claire E. Steele congratulates Capt. Julia Bryan of the 902nd MI Group after her promotion to captain.

“In 1977 Lt. Col. Schumacher used those captain’s bars to promote Capt. George Bryan, and Lt. Col. Schumacher went on to become Maj. Gen. Schumacher,” she said.

Maj. Gen. Henry J. Schumacher served nearly 30 years in the U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of major general in 1983. He served as attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, served at the Pentagon, was principal advisor to the U.S. commander in Latin America, and commanded the White House Communications Agency under President Ronald Reagan.

“In 1993, Lt. Col. George Bryan used the same captain’s bars to promote Capt. Claire Steele, before becoming Col. George Bryan,” she said.

He served 27 years as a signal officer, with his last assignment as the commandant of the Regimental Officers Academy, at Fort Gordon.

“George personally knew each of the officers who wore the captain’s bars,” Steele said. “He was a platoon leader in the 67th Signal Battalion during Lt. Col. Schumacher’s command of the 67th, and Maj. Gen. Myer was Fort Gordon’s post commanding general.”

George selected Steele to command one of his companies in the 102nd Signal Battalion, Frankfurt, Germany in 1992.

According to Steele, George talked about his daughters constantly. She quickly learned that he was a “proud

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poppa" who consistently found a way to work his daughters into whatever conversation he was a part of. Steele has always considered George one of her mentors, and made it a point to keep in touch with him throughout her career.

"I worked hard for George Bryan, he made sure of it," she said. "I learned so much from him, especially about leadership and attention to detail. Always take the hard right over the easy wrong was one of the earliest lessons, and take accountability for your actions right or wrong, you own them."

So it was only fitting that Steele return the favor, and the

rank, back to the Bryan family when she pinned the rank on the newest Capt. Bryan during a promotion ceremony in February 2006. After the ceremony, Steele reflected back on everything.

When George gave Steele the captain's bars in 1993, he told her their history and said she was to continue the tradition of passing them on when she became a lieutenant colonel. At the time, Steele never dreamed she would pass them to Bryan.

"I knew she would appreciate and honor them," she said.

When Bryan moved to Maryland, she called Steele at the urging of her father.

"She really reminds me so much of her dad," Steele said. "She has so much spirit, she's a hard worker, and you can tell she really enjoys being a Soldier. She was excited to go to Iraq and was proud of the work she had done there."

Bryan knew Steele was bringing the captain's bars and knew a little of their history, but certainly not the full extent of the legacy.

"I am very proud to wear them today, just as I was proud to wear one of the lieutenant bars with which my father was commissioned," Bryan said. "I hope my sister will get the mate to my captain bars when she is promoted sometime next year."

Summer safety message

Fireworks are a staple of summer celebrations, such as the Fourth of July. And while many feel fireworks are a necessary part of any cook out or Independence Day festivities, they can be dangerous when not used responsibly.

The Consumer Products Safety Commission issued a report that cited there were an estimated 9,300 hospital emergency room visits for firework-related injuries in 2003. While this number is significantly lower than in the mid-1990's when injuries averaged 12,500 a year, there is still plenty of room for improvement.

The reduction is attributed to rigorous enforcement, increased consumer awareness, and the work of reputable fireworks manufacturers.

The best thing parents can do to keep their families safe this summer is to understand the basic safety tips for fireworks, including never trying to relight a "dud" and using only legal, consumer fireworks.

Firecrackers, cherry bombs, and skyrockets are just a few examples of fireworks that are illegal in certain states. Such fireworks can be confiscated and the person possessing them

may be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of a \$2,500 fine and/or one year in jail.

Any firework that explodes, emits a flame, sparks higher than 12 feet, or performs as a projectile is usually prohibited by County Fire Prevention Codes. Counties also frequently prohibit a wholesaler, retailer, jobber, etc., from offering or selling fireworks to any person younger than 15 years old.

The Child Accident Prevention Foundation urges parents to keep fireworks and sparklers away from children.

Sparklers in particular can be very dangerous to children and account for the majority of reported injuries each year because they can reach temperatures as high as 1800 degrees Fahrenheit.

Have a safe Fourth of July and stay away from dangerous and illegal fireworks. If you have any questions about fireworks use or display, contact your local Fire Prevention Division.

(Information courtesy of the INSCOM safety office).